CITY OF SYDNEY

SELF GUIDED WALKING TOUR — SENSORY SYDNEY

Sydney Sensory Walking Tours

A stroll through the City of Sydney can provide a wide range of sensory delights. There are beautiful sights and sounds ranging from strident to subtle, tasty treats, smells (including some rather sharp) and tactile moments to make your walk memorable. As a cosmopolitan and living city, Sydney can be experienced at many levels – this walk is designed to help you discover the sensory Sydney.

1 Railway Square, Central

Recent improvements to the City's main gateway have improved pedestrian and traffic conditions at this transport hub which now boasts artworks that have been integrated into the redesigned Square.

The Devonshire Tunnel's artwork reflects the movement of this transit zone with anamorphically stretched images used in light boxes in the sides of the tunnel and in the windscreens of four bus shelters at street level. The colour scheme also cascades down the centre of the four light towers along the spine of Railway Square in the form of spiralling metal ribbons.

Material World, by Merilyn Fairskye expresses the four elements – earth, water, air and fire – through colour schemes used in each of the three main artwork components.

George Street

As the major road leading west, George Street has always played a significant role in Australia's history. Imagine how it has changed from an Aboriginal track leading from farmed grasslands to bountiful fishing areas into a thoroughfare for horse drawn vehicles.

At its northern end it was the same track used by early settlers to reach the spring in the Tank Stream in Martin Place. Originally called Spring Row, it was renamed in 1810 by Governor Macquarie after King George III.

Today George Street still plays a vital role as the ceremonial and parade route through our thoroughly modern city, and as the city plan from Woolloomooloo Bay to Darling Harbour grows, George Street remains its backbone.

2 *Golden Water Mouth* by Lin Li, cnr Hay & Sussex Streets, Haymarket

This two centuries old Yellow Box tree was found near the Lachlan River in NSW where many Chinese settled during the Gold Rush. Australian and Chinese cultures are signified in the combination of materials and the principles of Feng Shui govern the incorporation of water, wood, earth and fire elements in the design to encourage positive energy at the site.

Reach out and feel a single drop of water – watch a single drop arrive on the earth.

3 Sussex Street, Chinatown

There is a wide of range of languages heard here, including those of the many tourists who enjoy the precinct. Chinese music spills from the arcade and Chinese greetings cards are at the door of the newsagent.

At the supermarkets rough and spiky vegetables are on sale and strong smells waft out to the pavement. Inside you'll see very different cuts of meat and fish as well as unusual food packages which are tightly packed all around the store.

The Chinese Garden of Friendship, jnct Harbour and Liverpool Streets

The garden's design was a gift from the Guangdong Province of China to the people of New South Wales to celebrate the 200th year of European settlement in Australia in 1988.

This peaceful haven has a lake covered with lotus and water lilies for much of the year and a rock monster to guard against evil. As part of a quiet, contemplative stroll you can enjoy traditional Chinese tea and cakes at the Tea House Courtyard.

4 The Spanish Quarter, Liverpool Street

This traditionally Spanish area of Sydney echoes some of the architecture from that nation. Dark wood panels doors and Spanish-styles of wrought ironwork decorate the windows.

The Continental Deli sharpens your appetite in one swift intake of breath as you enter and it's hard to choose between the luscious leg hams strung up around or the burning hot salamis on the counter top.

Delicious oil and garlic smells become exaggerated at night when the restaurants are at full tilt. You're likely to hear the rhythms and thunder of Spanish flamenco dancing, much of it practised by local Australians, as you pass the doors of clubs and night spots.

5 World Square, Liverpool Street

This whole city block is being redeveloped and was the site of the old Anthony Hordern department store.

The first tower of the $700 million World Square development is in operation. The Hordern Arcade below the 45-storey Hordern Towers houses *The Challenge*, a sculpture by Australian artist, Alan Somerville. Cast in bronze this work depicts a Spanish bull and weighs a colossal two tons. The sculpture's combined mass and bulk needed cranes and a team of 20 workmen to manoeuvre it into position on its pedestal.

6 The Obelisk, jnct Bathurst and Elizabeth Streets

You may think this impressive structure is in some way representative of Australia's links with Egypt, but you'd be very wrong. It is in fact a ventilator for the sewer beneath it!

Erected in 1857 this mock Egyptian monument is also known as '*Thorton's Scent Bottle*' after the Mayor of Sydney who had it built. Raise your eyes (and therefore your nose) to the tip of it as you pass.

7 *Pool of Remembrance*, Anzac Memorial, Hyde Park South

The Art Deco style of this memorial and pool was designed in 1934 by Charles Bruce Dellit.

It serves as both a reflection pool for the pink granite building and as a place to reflect. Australia's beautiful southern skies are brought to earth here and the wind often writes across its surface.

Each spring several mother ducks are spotted here teaching their ducklings the rudiments of swimming.

For information call City Info 9265 9007 or visit the City's website www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au to download this self guided walking tour

Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney
The Royal Botanic Gardens display both flowering and non-flowering plants. Here the first trees were planted by the newly arrived European colonists; some of these trees survive today.

On the left of the Pyramid Glasshouse entrance is a grove of Australian native plants. Notice the difference between it and the fertile sea of green elsewhere in the Gardens. Here the soil is light and sandy, many of the leaves khaki or even brown in colour, while the stems and trunks are often hard and rough.

13 The Herb Garden in the Royal Botanic Gardens

Opened in 1994, this garden is a very 'young' feature alongside the well established Rose Garden area of the Royal Botanic Gardens.

Herbs from around the world used for a wide variety of purposes – culinary, medicinal and aromatic – are on display here. A sensory fountain turns on when approached and a sundial modelled on the celestial sphere is also featured.

14 *Magnolia and Palm*, Royal Botanic Gardens

A pair of overscaled seed-like sculptures by Bronwyn Oliver are nestled beneath a magnolia and a palm tree in the Gardens and are placed adjacent to the site of the First Farm in Sydney Cove. The forms reflect the organic flotsam washed up by the tide, blown by the wind and laden with the potential for transformation and new life.

Run your hands over the rippling copper rods that branch up from a granite base, like veins towards a tapered tip. The surface is covered in thin curling tendrils of copper echoing the qualities of husks and seed-shells found amongst the surrounding garden's foliage.

More artworks in the Sydney Sculpture Walk within the Royal Botanic Gardens

Viva Voce, Debra Phillip, The Domain
One red stepladder and five marble clad pedestals are arranged amongst the trees at Speaker's Corner in the Domain. The work acknowledges the historical and contemporary importance of the area as a site of public oratory.

Archaeology of Bathing, Robyn Backen, Woolloomooloo Bay
The artwork traces the former Domain Baths for Ladies and reflects upon the cultural attitudes towards bathing in Sydney at the time. The installation also signifies tidal movements and the naval presence across Woolloomooloo Bay.

Dual Nature, Nigel Helyer, Woolloomooloo Bay
Shell-like objects fashioned from corten steel are mounted on the foreshore and seabed, with crane elements placed between them. The installation is animated by sound reflecting the maritime, natural and social history of the Bay.

Partly submerged at high tide the water sculptures will eventually form an organic patina – resulting in a hybrid appearance of marine organism and industrial hulk.

They are intended to act as natural reverberation chambers and these ambient sounds mix with the pre-recorded soundscape entitled *Ebb and Flow* that emanates from the land based sculptures.

Veil of Trees, Janet Laurence & Jisuk Han, The Domain
A one hundred meter curvilinear passage of new red-gums, native grass plantings and glass panels containing ash, honey, seeds and resin runs along the central spine of the Lawson site. Light-emitting diodes in the panels illuminate the passage at night creating a poetic and fluid environment that reflects both the architectural and the natural surroundings.

15 Opera House

Utzon envisaged his masterpiece as a living sculpture that could be viewed from any angle. The building's organic shape and lack of surface decoration have made it both timeless and ageless. Moreover, it demonstrates how buildings can add to environmental experience rather than detract from it - something of spiritual value independent of function.

The clean, curvaceous lines of the sails appeal to the eye. Find where the tiles come down to the ground and feel how smooth and solid they are to the touch. The sound of cameras clicking and the tourists talking in foreign tongues creates a vibrant buzz. The building also stirs another feeling – pride. This is acknowledged as one of the modern wonders of the world to be shown off and admired.

16 *Memory is Creation Without End* by Kimio Tsuchiya, Tarpeian Way, Macquarie Street

This spiral of sandstone blocks consists of relics carved by stone-masons from demolished buildings such as the Pyrmont Bridge. Once quarried for the city's early sandstone buildings the Tarpeian Way is now a thin veneer of earth covering the Sydney Harbour Tunnel. *Memory is Creation Without End* symbolises the circular connection of artist endows them with new life, meaning and memory.

17 Circular Quay

Once the first piece of land new arrivals to Australia walked upon, Circular Quay stimulates all the senses. To migrants the feeling of earth beneath their feet after months at sea, must have felt like the first solid steps towards a new and better life.

Stand at the railing by the wharves listen to the sounds of a living, working harbour. Ferries blow their horns, engines are in reverse to slow the momentum of their great bulk as they come into dock. Seagulls squawk, fighting over the last hot chip and children shout as they run and play.

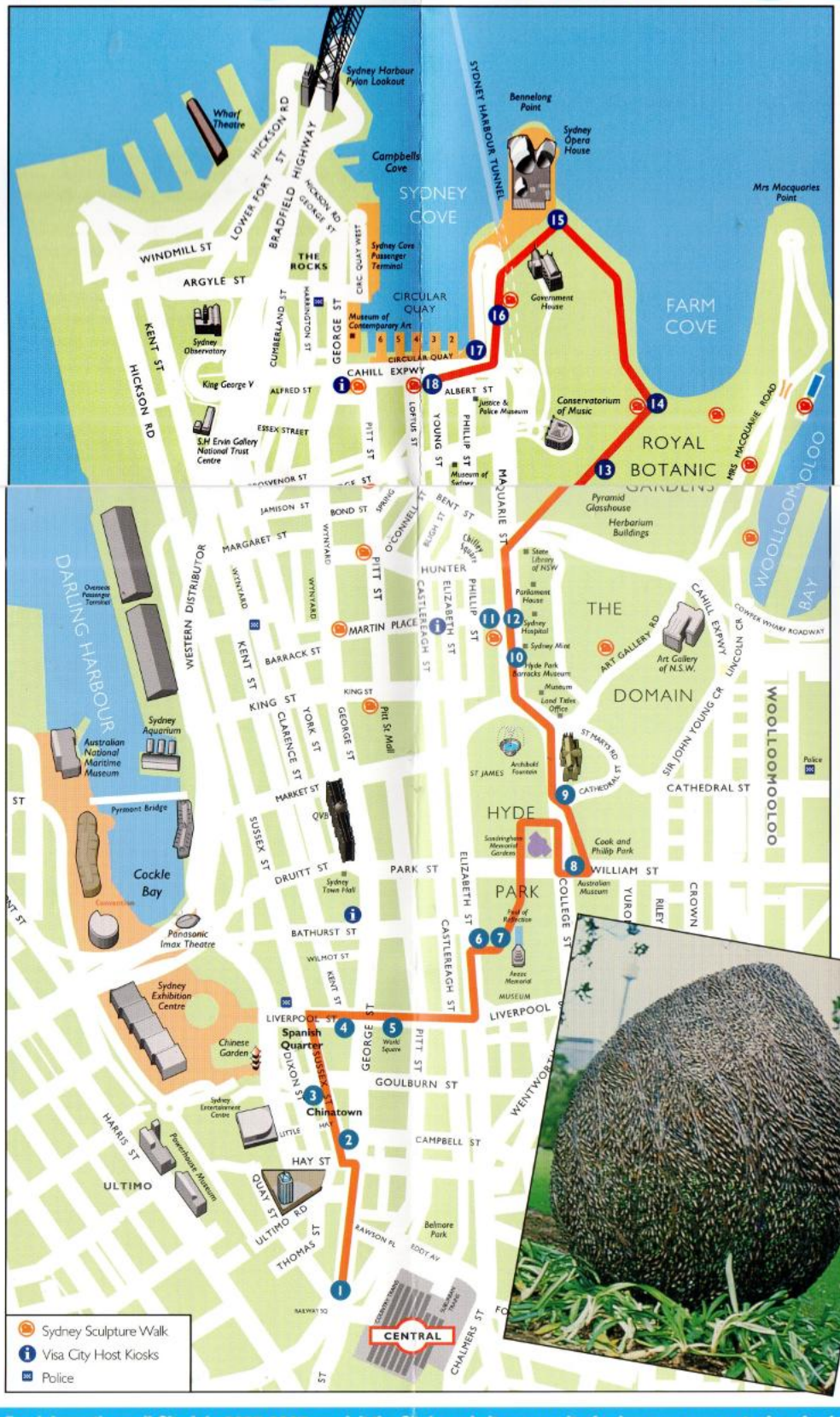
Out on the harbour, rays of sunlight or moonlight often reflect off the water like glittering diamonds scattered across a dark polished marble floor. The smells of diesel and saltwater drift up your nose and from the cafes and restaurants come the tantalising aromas of the best of modern Australian cuisine.

18 Customs House, Alfred Street, Circular Quay

Customs House dates from 1840 with additions continuing until 1999. On its western side in Loftus Street is a plaque commemorating the spot where the British flag was raised in Sydney Cove on 26 January 1788.

Palimpsest: the original writing has been effaced to make room for a second… by Fiona MacDonald. On either side of the entrance ramp to Customs House translucent glass tiles are inscribed with layers of handwritten text and gold insignia reflecting the function and political history of Customs House as a site of exchange and the arrival of people, goods and ideas.

Magnolia by Bronwyn Oliver



EXPLORE THE OUTDOORS

Hyde Park

Hyde Park is where the Tank Stream originated and it's believed that waterfowl and terrestrial mammals, such as macropods, were sought there by local Aboriginal people for food.

Named in 1810 by Governor Macquarie after Hyde Park in London, this is the 'green heart' of the city though once it was used as a training ground by garrison troops and included a cricket pitch and a racecourse.

A walk in any direction will reward you with interesting monuments including the art deco Archibald Memorial Fountain, the F.J. Walker Fountain of earth, wind and fire, a statue of Captain Cook, Busby's Bore and the Emden Gun.

There are restful arbours such as the Main Avenue in Hyde Park South where dozens of 80 year old Hills weeping figs offer much-needed deep shade in the height of an Australian summer. In contrast the open lawn areas belong to lunchtime crowds soaking up the much appreciated winter sun.

8 Cook + Phillip Park artworks, cnr William and College Streets

The recently completed Cook + Phillip Park is a stunning contemporary urban park and aquatic/recreation centre beneath Cathedral Square.

Inside the Aquatic Centre is the *Annette Kellermann Mural* by Wendy Sharpe. Eight large painted panels lining the Olympic-sized pool depict scenes from the life of champion swimmer, aquatic star and movie actress Annette Kellerman. Inspiration for the paintings was drawn from many sources including the Kellermann costume collection at the Sydney Powerhouse Museum.

Also within the Aquatic Centre is *Coral's Poolside Cocktail* by Philippa Playford. This group of colourful glass mosaic sculptures creates seating in the outdoor plaza and forms a protective wall for the toddlers' area of the wave pool. The designs reflect the forms of natural foliage collected from the area prior to excavation in a style that is distinctly humorous, quirky and naive.

In the park is *The Yurong Water Garden* by Anita Glesta. This environmental installation utilises sandstone boulders and original rocks from the former park to retrace the path of the Yurong Creek. Water springs from the large boulders and flows down through three terraced layers to rest in a calm reflection pool surrounded by fragrant plantings below.

Front Image: *Dual Nature* by Nigel Helyer, Woolloomooloo Bay

9 St Mary's Cathedral, cnr College Street & Prince Albert Road

Built on the site of the first land in Australia granted to the Catholic Church, this beautiful example of revival Gothic architecture, designed by architect William Wardell, was completed in 1828.

Go in to marvel at the soaring ceiling, the light through the stained glass and to sit quietly amongst the lingering scent of incense. It doesn't have to be a religious experience, just one of contemplation. You'll start to hear something – silence. In the midst of the cities, churches provide a haven of solace and calm.

Sandstone buildings

One of the dominant features of Sydney's older-built environment is sandstone. Local sandstone has been used in the construction of some of our grandest structures including the Mitchell Library, the Sydney Hospital and St Mary's Cathedral.

Sydney's sandstone is renowned for its dense quality and thoroughness of colour. Stonemasons love to work in it as it holds together for fine feature work and once left to 'go off', sandstone oxidises in the atmosphere to form a hard exterior with a soft supple interior.

Notice the rough, warm texture in contrast to the concrete, glass and steel of modern Sydney.

10 Hyde Park Barracks, Macquarie Street

Walk through the gates of the Barracks and into the courtyard. The sound of pebbles crunching under your feet will evoke ghosts of the booted feet of garrison soldiers as they marched convicts to the building. Do a lap of the main building and you'll come to a tree with three stools underneath, sit and listen. You'll hear voices coming from the tree… their songs in Gaelic and are a part of the art work in the western wall which commemorates the women who came to Australia during the Irish famine.

11 *Passage* by Anne Graham, Martin Place, Macquarie Street end

This artwork is a footprint of a Georgian house that once stood in Martin Place. It is marked out by black granite paving tiles and metal grilles, through which a light mist rises evoking the walls of the house. Three water features in bronze bowls based on Georgian sponging pans represent the ablutions area of the house.

12 *Il Porcellino*

Rub the nose and make a wish. The wild boar's snout has been polished smooth by those seeking good fortune for themselves and others.

This bronze statue is a copy of a 17th Century fountain in Florence, Italy. Donated to the hospital in 1968, it symbolises the close bonds shared by Italy and Australia.